

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A safety buckle, comprising:
 - a socket having a cavity with a first surface ~~and a second surface opposed to the first surface~~;
 - a first catch in the cavity and adjoining the first surface and protruding away from the first surface;
 - a plug with a central arm for insertion into the socket ~~between the first and second surfaces~~;
 - a first latch on the central arm sized and positioned to cooperate with the catch when the plug is inserted into the socket to engage the plug and socket;
 - a disengagement device on the socket or plug cooperating with the central arm or the catch to disengage the latch and the catch upon actuation of the device; and
 - a ~~symmetrically positioned~~ second latch or catch sized and positioned with a symmetry to the first latch or first catch, respectively, for providing an alternate engagement with the corresponding first catch or first latch, such that the socket and plug may be engaged independent of a relative orientation of the socket and plug.
2. (currently amended) The buckle according to claim 1, wherein:
 - the socket includes ~~[[a]]~~ the second catch; and
 - the first latch is a protrusion on the central arm.
3. (currently amended) The buckle according to claim 1, wherein the central arm includes ~~[[a]]~~ the second latch for cooperating with the first catch of the socket.
4. (currently amended) The buckle according to claim 1, further comprising two central arms, ~~each having a one central arm including the first latch and suitable for cooperating with the catch of the female member~~ the other central arm including the second latch.

5. (original) The buckle according to claim 1, wherein the central arm further comprises a pair of latches, each of which being suitable for cooperating with the catch of the socket.

6. (currently amended) The buckle according to claim 1, wherein the cavity includes a second surface opposing the first surface and symmetrical openings in the first and second surfaces forming the first and second catches ~~each further comprises a pair of openings through the first and second surfaces~~, the openings being sized and shaped to cooperate with ~~[[a]] the first~~ latch on the central arm of the plug, wherein the device is a button coupled to a lever operable to displace the latch to prevent cooperation between the latch and the ~~opening~~ openings.

7. (currently amended) The buckle according to claim 1, further comprising two central arms, ~~[[each]] one~~ having ~~[[a]] the first~~ latch ~~and the other having the second latch~~; and two opposed openings through the first and second surface in the cavity for cooperating with the first and second latches of the central ~~[[arm]]~~ arms.

8. (new) A safety buckle, comprising:
a first buckle member including a first engagement part;
a second buckle member including a second engagement part;
the first and second buckle members being complementary shaped to provide an interactive fit when the first and second buckle members are fitted together.
the first and second engagement parts being cooperative to retain the first and second buckle members together when the first and second buckle members are fitted together;
one of the first and second engagement parts having a symmetrically functional counterpart, such that the first or second engagement part cooperates with the counterpart to retain the first and second buckle members together when the first and second buckle members are fitted together in a different orientation.

9. (new) The safety buckle according to claim 8, further comprising a central arm on one of the first or second buckle members, the first or second engagement part being located on the central arm.

10. (new) The safety buckle according to claim 9, wherein the counterpart is located on an opposite side of the central arm from the first or second engagement part.

11. (new) The safety buckle according to claim 9, wherein the counterpart is located on the other of the first or second buckle member from that having the central arm.

12. (new) The safety buckle according to claim 8, further comprising two central arms on one of the first or second buckle members, one central arm having one of the first or second engagement parts thereon, and the other central arm having the counterpart.

13. (new) The safety buckle according to claim 9, wherein the engagement part on the central arm is formed as a recess with a shoulder near an end of the central arm, the counterpart also being arranged on the central arm.

14. (new) The safety buckle according to claim 8, further comprising:
a cavity in one of the first or second buckle members to receive an interacting portion of the other of the first or second buckle members; and

the first or second engagement part is provided as a projection in the cavity to cooperate with the other of the first or second engagement parts, the counterpart also being located in the cavity.

15. (new) The safety buckle according to claim 8, further comprising a disengagement device on one of the first or second buckle members for disengaging the first or second engagement parts or counterpart to permit the buckle to be unclasp.

16. (new) The safety buckle according to claim 15, wherein one of the first or second engagement parts is located on the disengagement device.